



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxics and Substance Control
El Centro Field Office
627 Wake Ave.
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, February 10, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Designee Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Ema Rosa Silva (Calexico Community Representative/ Vecinos de Calexico), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Luis Estrada (City of Calexico), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez, designee), Michael Flores (California Department of Fish and Game designee), Roger Vintze (California Department of Toxics and Substance Control), Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency alternate), Leon Lesicka (Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River), Luis Olmedo (Comité Cívico del Valle), and Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District designee). In attendance by phone were Dr. Marilyn Underwood (California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Branch), Jonathan Ballard (U.S. General Services Administration), Frank Gonzalez (CalTrans), Wayne Belzer (International Boundary and Water Commission), and Rebecca Little Owl (International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) alternate). TAC Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)) also joined the meeting by phone for a short period of time. Committee members unable to attend included Andy Horne (County of Imperial designee), Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau), Carlos Maturino (City of Calexico alternate), Lisa Santana (International Boundary and Water Commission), and Eduardo Demesa (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Also in attendance were Carlos Angulo (CalEPA), Trevor Taniguchi (CalEPA), Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board – by phone), Bart Christensen (State Water Resources Control Board), Kevin Wholman (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Ed DeMesa), John McCaull (consultant – by phone) and facilitators Carl Nettleton and Gabriela Coverdale (Nettleton Strategies).

- 2) **Acceptance of Meeting Notes of January 27, 2011, Meeting.** Upon motion Ortega, second Silva, the notes from the January 27, 2011, meeting were unanimously accepted.
- 3) **TAC Chair Update.** Jose Angel (acting chair in Ricardo Martinez's absence) reported that he presented on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee at the Border Environmental Cooperation Committee /North American Development Bank combined board of Directors meeting on February 8 in Tijuana. He said it was a good meeting and provided good exposure for the TAC's work. Ricardo was unable to attend today's TAC meeting in person because he is still working on the transition.
- 4) **Mapping Update.** Deferred to a later meeting.
- 5) **Progress Reports from Workgroups.** Reported here in the order of the agenda, but discussion was actually conducted following finalization of the preparations for the February public meetings.
 - a) **Impairments/ (Jose Angel)** Data gap monitoring will be concluded next month. Sediment sampling will be done the week of February 14, the logistics are still coming together, but a drill or auger will be use. Frank Gonzalez has roughed out the flows of the New River – there are incompatibilities with the proposed encasement in the U.S. and what Mexico is encasing on their side of the border. If a conduit where to be built, it would have to be compatible with Mexican average flows. CalTrans sent a letter to the Mexican officials regarding compatibilities with encasement. If the encasement couldn't handle the flows, then the river bed would become the choice during a large storm. Information about the New River flows (hydrology) was provided to the TAC and can be incorporated by the TAC for approval when it becomes part of the report.
 - b) **Remediation (Steve Charlton)** The committee has met once and will meet again the week of February 14 to finalize the work plan. All of the TAC is welcome to join in and invitations will be sent to the entire TAC mailing list by Trevor.
 - c) **New River Visioning (Miguel Figueroa)** Work continues on the Visioning Work Group's report and the first TAC meeting after the public meetings will include a series of presentations on the options the Visioning Work Group has uncovered. Miguel will be getting in touch with Leon to gather information on wetlands that will be incorporated into the draft document. He needs to add information about which areas could be a bike path, recreations facilities, etc. Other than that research, the group is on schedule.
 - d) **Funding/Background (Dan Garza)** The Funding and Background Work Group has completed the first three steps of the Work Plan. Once the remediation and visioning projects have been identified, the Work Group will be identifying funding sources and how to comply with or overcome any legal or regulatory obstacles identified.

6) Preparation for February Public Meeting (all)

- a) **Approve presentation boards.** The TAC reviewed each presentation board for the public meeting, making corrections to language, suggesting replacement pictures and otherwise refining the boards. Suggestions made included:
 - i) Change the grate to a trash screen. Jose Angel and Steve Charlton to provide photos.
 - ii) Replace at least one of the historical pictures. Miguel Figueroa, Steve Charlton and Jose Angel to provide photos.
 - iii) Comments made during the meeting included concerns about chlorination if a disinfecting station were to be installed at the border, hydrogen sulfide odor issues, and making sure pesticides were not lost to the discussion. Early action funding will also need to be identified.
 - iv) Translation review can be provided by Jose Angel, Miguel Figueroa, Luis Olmedo, Ema Rosa Silva, and Gabriela Coverdale.

The changes to text and new photos will be added and the Publisher version of the boards will be sent to Trevor Taniguchi and Jose Angel. Between them they will be able to have the boards translated into Spanish and reproduced and mounted for display at the public meetings. A total of twelve boards will be reproduced, six in each language.

- b) **Approve PowerPoint presentation.** In the interest of efficiency, the PowerPoint that Jose Angel presented at the BECC/NADB meeting in Tijuana will be modified for the public meetings.
- c) **Approve Fact Sheet.** It was determined that a fact sheet would not be needed for this round of public meetings. The flyer and the web site will suffice.
- d) **Logistics.** A logistics matrix was completed by the TAC that identifies needs and responsibilities for the public meetings. In addition, Steve and Jose will handle logistics at the IID El Centro location and Carl and Gabriela will send Jose flyers formatted for printing in black and white.

7) **Other.** Nothing to report.

8) **Next Steps.** Host the public meetings. Hold a special TAC meeting on February 17, 2011, at noon to do a run through and prepare for the meeting.

9) **Next Meeting:** February 17, 2011, Noon, California Department of Toxics and Substance Control, El Centro Field Office, 627 Wake Ave., El Centro, 92243

10) **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.